

stability, safety and discipline. This, combined with unconditional affection and encouragement, provide children with the solid foundation to move ahead in life.

I was fortunate to have grown up in a household with such loving and dedicated parents. My mother and father strongly believed in the duty and responsibility they had to their six children, and worked tirelessly to ensure that my brothers and sisters and I would become healthy, productive adults.

As a matter of fact, it is from my parents that I learned the importance of using my God-given talents to serve others. My life in public service has been a reflection of what they not only preached, but on how they lived their lives. My siblings and I were taught early on that part of earning and deserving our citizenship was giving back, not only to our immediate family, but also to our community and our country.

Even as my mother entered her eighties, she still served as a model for our family. Although, she was moving on in years, she would still volunteer her time in the library of a Cleveland city school. I would ask her, "Mom—why are you still doing this? You've done enough! Why don't you just rest and take it easy?"

Her answer was always the same: "Because I'm needed."

I was truly blessed to have two wonderful parents who were such loving and supportive role models. Too often, today's youth look elsewhere for guidance and comfort, not realizing that all the support and guidance they need is already there under their own roof. It is imperative that we bring the role of parents back to prominence, for they are the front-line for instilling the values we cherish in all our nation's youth.

I encourage parents all over the nation to recognize and cherish the blessing and responsibility the have in raising God's gifts to them. It is my hope that through the establishment of "National Parents Week," we will raise awareness of just how important our parents are in molding the next generation of Americans citizens.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA, AND RELATED INTOLERANCE PRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS GLOBAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. CORZINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 151

Whereas racial discrimination, ethnic conflict, and xenophobia persist in various parts

of the world despite continuing efforts by the international community to address these problems;

Whereas in recent years the world has witnessed campaigns of ethnic cleansing;

Whereas racial minorities, migrants, asylum seekers, and indigenous peoples are persistent targets of intolerance and violence;

Whereas millions of human beings continue to encounter discrimination solely due to their race, skin color, or ethnicity;

Whereas early action is required to prevent the growth of ethnic hatred and to diffuse potential violent conflicts;

Whereas the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (in this resolution referred to as "WCAR"), to be held in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 through September 7, 2001, aims to create a new world vision for the fight against racism and other forms of intolerance in the twenty-first century, urge participants to adopt anti-discrimination policies and practices, and establish a mechanism for monitoring future progress toward a discrimination-free world;

Whereas the WCAR will review progress made in the fight against racism and consider ways to better ensure the application of existing standards to combat racism;

Whereas participants of the WCAR currently plan to discuss remedies, redress, and other mechanisms to provide recourse at national, regional, and international levels for victims of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination;

Whereas the WCAR is charged with reviewing the political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and other factors leading to racism and racial discrimination and formulating concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional, and international measures to combat racism;

Whereas some preparatory materials for the WCAR take positions on current crises which, if adopted in the final WCAR Declaration and Program of Action, could exacerbate existing tensions, such as language which takes sides in the current crisis between Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas the attempt by some to use the WCAR as a platform to resuscitate the divisive and discredited notion equating Zionism with racism, a notion that was overwhelmingly rejected in 1991 by a subsequent United Nations Resolution, would undermine the goals and objectives of the WCAR;

Whereas the WCAR is expected to propose concrete recommendations to ensure that the United Nations has the resources to actively combat racism and racial discrimination; and

Whereas the United States encourages respect for an individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages all participants in the WCAR to seize this singular opportunity to tackle the scourges of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination which have divided people and wreaked immeasurable suffering;

(2) recognizes that, since racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance exist to some extent in every region and country around the world, efforts to address these prejudices should occur within a global framework and without reference to specific regions, countries, or present-day conflicts;

(3) exhorts the participants to utilize the WCAR to mitigate, rather than aggravate, racial, ethnic, and regional tensions;

(4) urges the WCAR to focus on concrete steps that may be taken to address gross human rights violations that were motivated by racially and ethnically based animus and on devising strategies to help eradicate such intolerance;

(5) hopes that objectionable language concerning Israel and Zionism will be removed so that the United States will be able to send a delegation and participate fully in the WCAR; and

(6) commends the efforts of the Government of the Republic of South Africa in hosting the WCAR.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHOULD REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY IN FULFILLING THE SECRETARY'S MANDATE TO PROVIDE OUTREACH TO VETERANS, THEIR DEPENDANTS, AND THEIR SURVIVORS

Mrs. LINCOLN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 152

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a statutory mandate to provide outreach to veterans, their dependents, and their survivors;

Whereas the most recent survey conducted by the VA indicates that many veterans and survivors are unaware of benefits they are eligible to receive;

Whereas recent press reports indicate many veterans are not aware that they are eligible for low-cost prescription medications as part of medical care provided by the VA;

Whereas some VA outreach initiatives, such as the Health Benefits Hotline (1-877-222-VETS), are somewhat recent;

Whereas more than 9,000,000 veterans receive Social Security benefits;

Whereas the number of members of the largest group of veterans, the Vietnam Era veterans, who are awarded Social Security disability and retirement insurance benefits will increase over time;

Whereas the Social Security Administration sends more than 45,000,000 cost-of-living adjustment notices to its beneficiaries each year;

Whereas the Social Security Administration sends more than 2,000,000 award notices to newly-entitled disability and retirement insurance beneficiaries each year;

Whereas more than 100,000 persons visit the field offices of the Social Security Administration every workday;

Whereas the Social Security Administration has 65,000 employees, most of whom come into contact with the public;

Whereas many Social Security beneficiaries who are veterans could benefit from VA medical care because they do not have prescription drug coverage or are not currently eligible for Medicare; and

Whereas many Social Security beneficiaries are eligible for additional income through the VA's pension and compensation programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should request assistance from the Commissioner of Social Security in fulfilling the